

1 Mont Vernon School Board

2 Thursday, January 14th, 2021

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 02 03 2021

4 Attendees:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent, Christine Landwehrle- Assistant
6 Superintendent, Michele Croteau- SAU #39 Business Administrator, Meg Beauchamp- Director
7 of Student Services, Dr. Kim Sarfde- Principal of the Mont Vernon Village School and Roger
8 Preston- Director of SAU #39 Facilities

9 Mont Vernon Village School Board: Chair- Sarah Lawrence, Vice Chair- Peter Eckhoff,
10 Secretary- Scott St. Denis, Stephen O'Keefe, and Jessica Hinckley.

11 Board Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

12 Public: Peter King, MVSD Moderator, 36 Kendall Hill Rd, Mont Vernon, NH, Eileen Naber, 14
13 Beech Hill Rd, Mont Vernon NH,

14 I. Call to Order

15 **Chair of the Mont Vernon School Board, Ms. Sarah Lawrence, called the meeting to order**
16 **at 6:01PM.**

17 Today, we will be conducting a school board meeting of the Mont Vernon School Board.

18
19 Before we get started, I'll read through a checklist to ensure that the meeting that we are holding
20 is in compliance with the Right-to-Know Law.

21
22 As Chairperson of the Mont Vernon School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency
23 declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the
24 Governor's Emergency Order Number 12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 and its
25 extensions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no
26 physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized
27 pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.

28
29 In accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that:
30

- 31 1. We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access
32 possible by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic
33 meeting. All members of the committee and selected legislative staff have the ability to
34 communicate contemporaneously in this meeting through this platform. And the public
35 has access to contemporaneously watch and or listen to the meeting on Zoom and via
36 phone by following the directions and links provided on our website: www.sau39.org.
37
38 2. We have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
39

- 40 3. We are providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting
41 if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, please email
42 awallace@sau39.org.
43
- 44 4. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will be adjourned and
45 rescheduled.
46
- 47 5. Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.
48
- 49 6. Finally, let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states
50 their presence please also state where they are and if anyone else is in the room with you
51 during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know Law.
52

53 Roll Call: Eckhoff- Home and alone, St. Denis- Home and alone, Hinckley- Home and alone,
54 Lawrence- Home and alone and O'Keefe- home and alone.

55 II. Public Comment I of II

56 Mr. Peter King, MVSD Moderator, 36 Kendall Hill Road, Mont Vernon, NH, discussed that the
57 State allows districts to have options regarding their Deliberative Session. In their case, it would
58 be in the Multi-Purpose Room and can be socially distanced. They typically do not have many in
59 attendance and it can be possible. They also do not have anything on the agenda that is
60 controversial.

61 He noted that if the public plans on participating, you have to be present in the school. Voting is
62 not allowed to vote over Zoom. This will determine what will be on the March ballot.

63 Ms. Lawrence added that she has tried to be clear with the public about the process. She has
64 posted minutes so that the new residents can read and become more familiar. The presentations
65 are added as well.

66 Mr. King inquired about the date and time of the Deliberative Session. He noted that there is a
67 School Board meeting at 6:00. He suggested that they be listed as two separate meetings.

68 Ms. Lawrence replied that they will get that changed so that there is no confusion.

69 Mr. O'Keefe thanked Mr. King for all of his work. He asked if there was anything that would
70 impact their ballot.

71 Mr. King replied that he has met with the Town Selectmen this week. They will still hold
72 elections on Town Election day and the questions from the Deliberative will be on the ballot.

73 Mr. Eckhoff asked if it was worthwhile to do a direct mailer for all Mont Vernon Taxpayers so
74 there is no confusion to the process.

75 Ms. Lawrence added that it is a good question and asked Mr. King for his thoughts.

76 Mr. King replied that he knows that at one point there was a large mailer with all of the budgets
77 in the SAU. This was done for a number of years.

78 Ms. Lawrence added that she does not recall that in a few years. She suggested that the dates and
79 times be added to the movable board outside of the Town Hall. She asked for other options.

80 Ms. Hinckley noted that the PTA has a letter board that they can also put out in front of the
81 school.

82 Ms. Lawrence asked for Board thoughts.

83 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, gave his support for the postcard and suggested that it
84 referenced the website.

85 Mr. Eckhoff added that there will be confusion with voting at the Deliberative Session. He
86 recommended that they be very clear.

87 Mr. O’Keefe noted that it comes down to the language and gave his support for being exact and
88 specific. The town will have to mail out their information as they are moving their meeting.

89 Ms. Lawrence commented that she will reach out to Mr. Steel’s office and coordinate.

90 Mr. Steel replied that he is also editing the confirmation registration email for Zoom.

91 Ms. Lawrence asked for Board thoughts.

92 Ms. Hinckley echoed Mr. Eckhoff, the clearer the better.

93 Mr. St. Denis suggested a video to give more information.

94 Ms. Lawrence asked Mr. King for comments.

95 Mr. King responded that he was talking with the Town Moderator and he does not believe that
96 they will go with SB 1129. They will postpone the meeting and have it in May or June. The
97 items that will be on the ballot will still be on the ballot. He wants to get information out but
98 does not want to create an alarming situation. They can still hold a socially distanced
99 Deliberative Session.

100 Ms. Lawrence added that Ms. Autumn Grdina, MVVS PTA Member, has offered to place the
101 letterboard sign outside of the school building.

102 The Board thanked Mr. King and Ms. Grdina.

103 III. Consent Agenda

104 Ms. Lawrence asked for questions or comments on the Consent Agenda.

105 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to table Consent Agenda Items 9. MVVS Dec. Facilities Update, 10.**
106 **MVSD Gov. Letter and 11. MVSD Financial Report for the next meeting. Ms. Hinckley**
107 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

108 Mr. Steel asked if it was the Audit Report.

109 Mr. O’Keefe replied, yes, he would like to review it further.

110 Mr. Steel commented that the Auditor is here at tonight's meeting for questions. He gave his
111 support for tabling and noted that the Auditor can come back to a future meeting.

112 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O'Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes**
113 **and Hinckley- Yes.**

114 **Mr. O'Keefe motioned to approve Consent Agenda Items 1. Draft Minutes Dec 10th, 2020,**
115 **2. Draft Minutes Jan 4th , 2021, 3. Jan 2021 Principal's Report, 4. May 2020 Treasurer's**
116 **Report, 5. June 2020 Treasurer's Report, 6. July 2020 Treasurer's Report, 7. Aug. 2020**
117 **Treasurer's Report, 8. Sept. 2020 Treasurer's Report. Ms. Hinckley seconded the motion.**
118 **The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

119 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O'Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes**
120 **and Hinckley- Yes.**

121 Ms. Lawrence thanked MVVS Principal, Dr. Kim Sarfde, for the Principal's Report.

122 IV. Public Hearing Preparation

123 Ms. Lawrence asked SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, if she can share
124 her screen showing the presentation.

125 Ms. Croteau replied that this is the same document from the December 10th meeting with some
126 updated numbers, the bus contract and the proposed budget adjustment for the Kitchen Manager.

127 She added that this shows the change with a 5.6% increase over the FY 21 default and 5.7%
128 increase over the FY 21 proposed. She noted the draft warrant articles and default calculation.
129 The Tuition number is the largest change as there are 65 students in the budget, it goes down
130 from there. The NH Retirement Rate has increased, with a change in the SAU apportionment.

131 Ms. Croteau noted that there is a list of the items that they have carried forward from the prior
132 year. There are also items that are not in the proposed budget, grounds and building repairs and
133 technology items.

134 There is also the CBA Agreement, Tuition Agreement, with a bulleted list of the summary of the
135 agreement. She asked the Board if it contained the talking points that they would like to address.
136 The Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund Contribution language is there as well.

137 Last, there is an explanation of the budget process. She thanked the Board and the Budget
138 Committee members for all of their work.

139 Ms. Lawrence asked Mr. O'Keefe if he felt comfortable presenting the tuition agreement.

140 Mr. O'Keefe suggested they add in the three qualitative components that they negotiated
141 successfully. He noted that he can speak to it for tonight's Public Hearing.

142 Mr. Eckhoff inquired about the acronym ADM.

143 Mr. O'Keefe replied Average Daily Membership.

- 144 Ms. Lawrence noted that there will be some community questions around the MVEA contract.
- 145 Mr. Steel added that he has been answering questions via email as well.
- 146 Ms. Lawrence inquired about the logistics for the Public Hearing in the Zoom format.
- 147 Ms. Croteau replied that she can share her screen and advance the slides.
- 148 Ms. Lawrence asked Mr. Steel for his thoughts. She believes that the most questions will be
149 about the collective bargaining agreement.
- 150 Mr. Steel reminded the Board that this presentation is to warn the public about what they are
151 bring forward to the Deliberative Session.
- 152 Ms. Lawrence added that it does look like they are getting close to the funds needed to replace
153 the roof.
- 154 Mr. O’Keefe commented that they have been discussing the roof for several years now. He has a
155 few questions about the bids, approval process, etc. It is great to inform the public that it is on the
156 radar.
- 157 Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that there may be questions for Covid related expenses. He asked Mr.
158 Steel for his thoughts.
- 159 Mr. Steel replied that it affects their taxes. They have used last year’s Unassigned Fund Balance
160 to pay for expenses this year. They have been notified of significant federal support and a
161 decrease in the tax rate for next fall. He does not have specific projections right now, but he
162 believes it is within what they have budgeted now.
- 163 Ms. Croteau asked if they Board would like to stay with the format of the presentation.
- 164 Ms. Lawrence replied that she prefers to have the place holders on the side.
- 165 She asked Mr. Steel if he was comfortable with the Opening Comments.
- 166 Mr. Steel replied, yes.
- 167 Principal Sarfde added that she is happy to speak to the presentation as well.
- 168 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, commented that they did budget for
169 additional software next year if they are still in a remote or semi-remote environment. That is
170 one of the only changes that she has, and it is pretty standard. They plan on doing a deep review
171 of the Math program and are planning on buying items in the FY’ 23 Budget.
- 172 Ms. Lawrence asked Director of Student Services, Ms. Meg Beauchamp, if she wanted to
173 highlight anything.
- 174 Ms. Beauchamp replied, no.
- 175 Director of Facilities, Mr. Roger Preston, added that he will be available to speak if needed.
- 176 V. Public Comment II of II

177 Ms. Eileen Naber, 14 Beech Hill Rd, Mont Vernon NH, noted that there are two school board
178 openings. She asked if the Board Members were going to put their names back on the ballot.

179 Both Mr. Eckhoff and Ms. Lawrence have noted that they will place their names on the ballot in
180 March.

181 Ms. Naber noted that the filing date ends on January 29th.

182 Ms. Lawrence added that it is rewarding and fulfilling work and encouraged people to look into
183 it.

184 Mr. King inquired about the amendments to the MVEA, he wondered if the full contract would
185 be available.

186 Mr. Steel replied that they typically do not publish the entire document until it is ratified by the
187 voters as it takes time to edit the document. He cannot guarantee that it will be completed in
188 February.

189 Ms. Naber asked if they will be voting on the full contract that they will not be able to read ahead
190 of time.

191 Mr. Steel replied, no. The document that is published references all of the changes to the existing
192 agreement. The entire contract is on the website.

193 Ms. Lawrence recommended that the information be readily available so that the community
194 members do not need to search for it.

195 VI. Meeting Recess

196 **Ms. Lawrence recessed the meeting at 6:55PM till the Public Hearing at 7:00PM**

197 VII. Public Hearing

198 **Mr. St. Denis motioned to open the Public Hearing at 7:01PM. Ms. Hinckley seconded the**
199 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

200 **Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O'Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes**
201 **and Hinckley- Yes.**

202 Ms. Lawrence noted that Mr. Adam Steel, Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, Assistant
203 Superintendent, Ms. Michele Croteau, SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Meg Beauchamp,
204 Director of Student Services, Mr. Roger Preston, Director of Facilities, Dr. Kim Sarfde, MVVS
205 Principal and Abby Wallace, Administrative Assistant, are all on the Zoom webinar.

206 Also, in attendance are Vice Chair, Mr. Peter Eckhoff, Mr. Stephen O'Keefe, Ms. Jessica
207 Hinckley and Mr. Scott St. Denis.

208 The point of the public hearing is to go over the budget presentation and any warrant articles.

209 There will be Public Comment time later on in the meeting. She encouraged the public to keep
 210 track of their questions or comments and they can answer them in the meeting. The participants
 211 will have to state their address.

212 Superintendent Steel discussed that tonight they will be presenting a proposed budget that
 213 reflects the Mont Vernon Village School. In addition, there will be a warrant articles regarding
 214 the Amherst Mont Vernon Tuition Agreement for the 7th and 8th grade students that attend the
 215 Amherst Middle School, a 4-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Mont Vernon
 216 Education Association for teachers, and \$50k for the School Property Maintenance Expendable
 217 Trust Fund. They are approaching the time to replace the roof and they are pleased to have put
 218 money away in past years to pay cash up front.

219 Ms. Lawrence asked Ms. Croteau to start sharing her screen for the budget presentation.

220 She began with summarizing the budget.

- 221 • FY22 Default -> 5.6% increase, \$310,359 over FY21
- 222 • FY22 Proposed -> 5.7% increase, \$315,281, over FY21
- 223 • The difference between the default and the proposed is \$4,922, 0.1% increase over FY21
- 224 • *Excluding Special Warrant Articles*

225

226 Slide number #3 is graphical representation.

227 She explained that slide #4 is the appropriation comparison.

228 Warrant Article #2: Operating Budget

229 **“Article 2.** *Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate as an operating*
 230 *budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations*
 231 *voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended*
 232 *by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling five million eight*
 233 *hundred twenty-seven thousand four hundred twenty-three {\$5,827,423} dollars? Should this*
 234 *article be defeated, the default budget shall be five million eight hundred twenty-two thousand*
 235 *five hundred one {\$5,822,501} dollars which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments*
 236 *required by previous action of the Mont Vernon School District or by law; or the governing*
 237 *body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40: 13, X and XVI, to take up the*
 238 *issue of a revised operating budget only? Majority vote required.”*

239 The Default Calculation includes the following:

- 240 • Tuition \$251,797
- 241 • Special Education other than Out of District \$58,021
- 242 • NHRS Rate Increase \$55, 504
- 243 • SAU Apportionment \$15,580
- 244 • Salaries Contractual Wages \$13,875
- 245 • Transportation: Regular and Special Education \$6,937
- 246 • Food Service \$7,314

247 Less the following:

- 248 • Other employee benefits: -\$9,472
- 249 • Health Insurance: -\$13,338
- 250 • Special Warrant Article -\$50,000
- 251 • Special Education Out of District Tuition : -\$73,439

252 Subtotal changes to the Default: \$260,359

253 The Proposed Budget Calculation:

- 254 • Facilities Repairs and Maintenance \$17,638
- 255 • Software \$3,079
- 256 • Other -\$40
- 257 • Technology Equipment Replacement -\$15,755

258 Subtotal Changes Default to Proposed: \$4,922

259 FY'22 Proposed Budget \$5,827,423

260 Special Warrant Article: \$50,000

261 Total Including Special Warrant Article: \$5,877,423

262 Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christine Landwehrle, noted that they did budget for additional
 263 software for next year. At the time of budgeting they were not sure what type of environment
 264 they will be in. They want to be fully in person for next year. They wanted to make sure they had
 265 enough for teachers.

266 SAU #39 Facilities Director, Mr. Roger Preston, commented that the \$17,638 is for preventative
 267 maintenance plans for the building, Life Safety systems, gym equipment, all of their systems.

268 Ms. Lawrence displayed the pie chart showing the budget composition. The largest percentage
 269 are salaries (33.9%) and benefits (17.4%). Next are contractual services (9.6%) , all
 270 transportation (4.2%), tuition to ASD (21.5%), other tuition (4.6%) general other category
 271 (5.7%), food service (1.6%) and grants (1.5%).

272 She reviewed the current and proposed staffing levels. With certified staffing, you have a 25.4
 273 currently and 25.4 projected. Regarding the non-certified staffing the Kitchen Manager position
 274 was reclassified.

275 She discussed the Roof Replacement Plan and HVAC upgrade plan. As of right now, they have
 276 \$311,067. If the warrant article passes, they will have \$361,067. This is important as they have a
 277 targeted roof replacement on the horizon. There are three bids that are currently available with
 278 the estimated cost of \$300,000.

279 The HVAC is targeted for upgrade in FY' 25 and it is something to keep on the horizon. Mr.
 280 Preston is doing an amazing job keeping the Board aware of these items. The estimated cost
 281 would be \$180,000.

282 The Board is grateful for this contribution.

283 There are items for Board Discussion that are not in the proposed budget. They cannot take
284 money from all of the funds (below) it just means that they can potentially apply for.

- 285 • Grounds Repair & Maintenance
 - 286 ○ Retaining wall by basketball court \$20,000
 - 287 ▪ Exploring possible support from Town trust funds:
 - 288 • Skenderian #4 \$6,288 available - Improvement of Public
 - 289 Lands
 - 290 • Whipple-Shedd Trust \$1,850 available - Improvement of Village
 - 291 • Bancroft-Long \$6,288 available - Beautification
 - 292
 - 293 ▪ Building Repairs and Maintenance
 - 294 ○ Rebuild bathrooms across from Library \$25,000
 - 295 ○ Remove and add glycol to closed loop system; add closed loop inhibitor \$13,500
 - 296
- 297 • Technology
 - 298 ○ Server Replacement- Infrastructure Server \$10,000

299 Warrant Article #3 Mont Vernon Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

300 **“Article 3.** ***“Shall the Mont Vernon School District approve the cost items included in the***
301 ***collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and MVEA (Mont Vernon***
302 ***Education Association) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the***
303 ***current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:***

304 <u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
305 2022	\$ 67,328.00
306 2023	\$ 67,498.00
307 2024	\$ 74,167.00
308 2025	\$ 76,247.00

309 ***and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 67,328.00 for the 2021-2022 year, such sum***
310 ***representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required***
311 ***by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels?” Majority***
312 ***vote required.”***

313 Ms. Lawrence explained the current MVEA Agreement approved March 2018.

314 ***“Shall the Mont Vernon School District approve the cost items included in the Collective***
315 ***Bargaining Agreement reached between the School Board and the MVEA (Mont Vernon***
316 ***Education Association) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the***
317 ***current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year.***

318 Fiscal Year Estimated Increase

319 2018-2019 \$80,054

320 2019-2020 \$81,700

321 2020- 2021 \$77,677

322 *And further raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand and fifty-four dollars (\$80,054) for*
 323 *the 2018-2019 year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in*
 324 *salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current*
 325 *staffing levels” Majority vote required.*

326 Mr. Peter Eckhoff, MVSBS Member, noted that this was his first year with these negotiations.
 327 They have a wonderful staff and have a small setting for their students. They need to attract new
 328 teachers when they retire and keep the teachers that they have. It was a pleasant negotiation with
 329 a 4-year agreement. They want to reward and pay their qualified teachers accordingly. They
 330 believe that they have accomplished that.

331 Ms. Lawrence echoed Mr. Eckhoff. She highlighted the estimated numbers in the proposed
 332 agreement. They are less than the current agreement.

333 Mr. Steel added that it was a successful negotiation and they have a highly functional
 334 relationship with the MVEA and the teachers. He applauded Ms. Jan Mattie and the rest of the
 335 negotiation team. They have a great partner with the MVEA. This is a special group of teachers
 336 that not only do exceptional in the classroom but great partners at the negotiation table.

337 Mr. Stephen O’Keefe, MVSBS Member, reviewed Warrant Article #4 Tuition Agreement with the
 338 Amherst School District.

339 ***“Article 4. Shall the School District approve a new five (5) year tuition agreement with the***
 340 ***Amherst School District to allow for continued education of Mont Vernon students at the***
 341 ***Amherst Middle School beginning July 1, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Tuition***
 342 ***Agreement on file with the School District Clerk?”***

343 The current agreement is the following:

- 344 • 10-year contract
- 345 • Current calculation is a modified cost per pupil
- 346 • ADM is calculated 5 times per year
- 347 • Does not allow for accurate budgeting for either party

348

349 The new agreement:

- 350 • Includes a 5-year contract with the option for a 5-year extension
- 351 • Tuition calculation is an average of the last 2 years CPP as reported to the DOE
- 352 • Has a 5.6% increase cap in any given year
- 353 • Uses the Oct 1 enrollment
- 354 • Provides phase out plan if MV does not extend contract

355 They also added in four qualitative items, 1. Testing reports back to the MVSB so that they are
 356 making sure that there are no gaps that are identified. 2. Creating synergy between their 6th grade
 357 educational experience and Amherst's 6th grade educational experience by mandating a couple of
 358 things. First, 2 curriculum assignments and have them cohesively coordinated between the two
 359 districts. 3. They want to make sure that their 6th grade teachers receive the same Professional
 360 Development as Amherst's so that their curriculum is on the same exact pace. 4. A one to one
 361 check in, with it being a program and being reported back to the MVSB every single November.

362 Mr. O'Keefe added that he was pleased with the partnership and believes that it is something that
 363 the community will get behind.

364 Ms. Lawrence read Warrant Article #5 Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund
 365 Contribution

366 ***“Article 5. Shall the Mont Vernon School District raise and appropriate fifty- thousand***
 367 ***dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund***
 368 ***established in March 2007 with said sum to come from the year-end unassigned fund balance***
 369 ***(surplus) if available on June 30, 2021? Majority vote required.”***

370 She commented that this is not a new item but a way to keep a level tax impact.

371 Ms. Lawrence reviewed the budget review process. They were pleased to have an engaged
 372 Budget Committee, with Ms. Karen Drum, as Chair. She encouraged the public to get involved
 373 in the Budget Committee. She thanked Ms. Jess Goonan, Mr. Matt Dougherty, Mr. Zach Gray,
 374 Ms. Kim Roberge (Selectboard Rep.) and Mr. Peter Eckhoff (School Board Rep).

375 She reviewed the next steps. Tonight, is the Warrant, Budget and Default Calculation posted, 02
 376 03 2021- Deliberative Session, 02 18 2021 Annual Report available, and 03 09 2021 for District
 377 voting.

378 Mr. King asked how many people are on the call.

379 Ms. Lawrence replied that he is one of twelve attendees.

380 Mr. King added that his job is to appoint the Budget Committee. He encouraged anyone
 381 interested to please reach out to him as he is running for reelection or see the new Moderator.

382 They want to make the Deliberative Session as Covid safe as possible. It is available in a Zoom
 383 or in person platform. If you choose to come to the Deliberative Session in person you will check
 384 with the Supervisors of the Checklist and receive a card for that allows you to vote on the
 385 warrant articles. You will not be permitted to vote on the warrant articles from the zoom
 386 platform.

387 About 15 years ago they allowed the District to become an SB 2 Town. They will look at the
 388 warrant articles and it can be discussed and debated. As Moderator, he can accept limited
 389 changes to the language to the articles or the possibly the dollar amounts. During the
 390 Deliberative Session the voters that are present will vote to place the articles on the ballot or as
 391 amended. Whatever is decided at the Deliberative it will be placed on the ballot in March 9th. As

392 in the past, the polls will be open from 7 am to 7pm. The ballot will contain, from what he sees is
393 two questions. First, do they approve the proposed budget, if not, it becomes the default budget.
394 the second is the \$50k reserve for the School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

395 He encouraged the public to get involved and would be happy to answer further questions.

396 Ms. Lawrence thanked Mr. King for his summary. She added that the Board is all available to the
397 public and their email addresses are on the SAU website.

398 Mr. King noted that the turn out for the Deliberative Session is historically low, under 20 people.
399 Based on that, and the fact that they do not have controversial items, they will set up the MPR
400 for about 50 people socially distanced. They also have a requirement in school to wear masks.
401 For those that do not want or cannot wear masks they will have a live video feed. They will do
402 what they can to accommodate people safely.

403 VIII. Public Comment

404 Ms. Lawrence asked for Public Comment. Please state your name and address, there will be a 3-
405 minute time limit.

406 Ms. Eileen Naber, 14 Beech Hill Road, MV NH, inquired about the large increase in years 2 and
407 3 in the MVEA contract.

408 Mr. Steel replied that from what he is seeing, each year they have a half a percentage Cost of
409 Living increase each year for 4 years. There is an additional amount for top steps. He then asked
410 Ms. Naber for clarification.

411 Mr. Eckhoff mentioned that it goes from \$67,498 to \$74,167. He believes that the increase is due
412 to how many teachers move into the different steps. The salary increases were tiered towards
413 seniority.

414 Ms. Naber inquired about the 5.6% tuition cap; she is assuming that it is per person not total.

415 Mr. O'Keefe added that it goes per pupil cost perspective.

416 Mr. King thanked Ms. Lawrence and Mr. O'Keefe for working with the Tuition with Amherst.
417 He asked if either side had the ability to cancel after 5 years or is it that MV has the opportunity
418 to extend it.

419 Mr. O'Keefe replied that the 5-year agreement is pretty important. They can allow the board at
420 that time to continue, canceling it or negotiating something new.

421 Ms. Lawrence asked how the school will be cleaned and sanitized after the Deliberative Session.

422 Mr. Steel replied that they treat their schools with as if someone was Covid positive. They have
423 extra cleaning protocols in place and will focus on where people will be that evening.

424 Principal Sarfde noted that the teachers appreciate all of the support that the community has
425 given to them. She thanked the community.

426 IX. Meeting Adjourned

427 **Ms. Hinckley motioned to close the Public Hearing at 8:11PM Mr. Eckhoff seconded the**
428 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

429 Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes
430 and Hinckley- Yes.

431 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to move articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the ballot as written. Ms. Hinckley**
432 **seconded the motion.**

433 Mr. Steel remarked that he believes that Mr. O’Keefe meant to say warrant articles 2,3,4 and 5.

434 **Mr. O’Keefe amended his motion to move articles 2, 3, 4 and 5 to the ballot as written. Ms.**
435 **Hinckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

436 Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes
437 and Hinckley- Yes.

438 X. Non- Public Session

439 **Mr. O’Keefe motioned to enter into Non-Public Session RSA 91 A:3 II (a) and (c) at 8:13**
440 **PM. Mr. Eckhoff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

441 Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes
442 and Hinckley- Yes.

443 Other persons present during nonpublic session: Superintendent Mr. Adam Steel

444 Descriptions of matters discussed, and final decisions made: Discussion about relocations and
445 policy changes. Discussion on social emotional actions

446 **Mr. Eckhoff motioned to exit Non-Public Session at 8:43 PM. Ms. Hinckley seconded the**
447 **motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

448 Ms. Lawrence called a roll call: Lawrence- Yes, O’Keefe- Yes, Eckhoff- Yes, St. Denis- Yes
449 and Hinckley- Yes.

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